

2. (Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a vacuum pump disposed between the container and the tank comprising the neutralizing material for pumping the chemicals from the container to the tank comprising the neutralizing material.

A1
3. (Amended) The system of claim 1 further comprising a heat exchange means connected to the nitrogen gas storage tank via a second pipe wherein nitrogen gas within the second pipe is heated by the heat exchange means.

7. (Amended) The system of claim 3 further comprising:

A2
a heating means connected to the heat exchange means for feeding a fluid to the heat exchange means for heating nitrogen gas that flows through the heat exchange means.

17. (Amended) The system of claim 2 wherein a second pipe extends from the container to the vacuum pump and further wherein a third pipe extends from the vacuum pump to the tank comprising the neutralizing material.

A3
18. (Amended) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a pressurized container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

an intake means for blowing air into the container via a first pipe for mixing the air with the quantity of chemicals to form an air and chemical mixture; and

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a second pipe for receiving the air and chemical mixture.

A4
26. (Amended) The system of claim 25 wherein a third pipe extends from the container to the vacuum pump and further wherein a fourth pipe extends from the vacuum pump to the tank containing the neutralizing material.

27. (Amended) The system of claim 18 further comprising a third pipe attached to the intake means and further wherein a heating means is attached to the third pipe for heating air flowing through the third pipe.

28. (Amended) The system of claim 18 further comprising a third pipe attached to the intake means and further wherein a drying means is attached to the third pipe for drying the air flowing through the third pipe.

Please add the following claims:

29. (New) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

a nitrogen gas storage tank wherein the nitrogen gas storage tank is attachable to a first valve on the container;

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a first pipe;

AG a heat exchange means connected to the nitrogen gas storage tank via a second pipe wherein nitrogen gas within the first pipe is heated by the heat exchange means; and

a heating means connected to the heat exchange means for feeding a fluid to the heat exchange means for heating nitrogen gas that flows through the heat exchange means.

30. (New) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

a nitrogen gas storage tank wherein the nitrogen gas storage tank is attachable to a first valve on the container; and

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a first pipe wherein said neutralizing material is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, calcium hydroxide, sodium sulfite, sodium thiosulfite, ferrous chloride and solid bed absorbents.

31. (New) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

a nitrogen gas storage tank wherein the nitrogen gas storage tank is attachable to a first valve on the container; and

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a first pipe wherein said tank neutralizes chloride gas and sulfur dioxide gas.

32. (New) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

a nitrogen gas storage tank wherein the nitrogen gas storage tank is attachable to a first valve on the container;

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a first pipe; and

a vacuum pump disposed between the container and the tank containing the neutralizing material for pumping the chemicals from the container to the tank wherein a second pipe extends from the container to the vacuum pipe and further wherein a third pipe extends from the vacuum pump to the tank containing the neutralizing material.

33. (New) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

an intake means for blowing air into the container via a first pipe; and

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a second pipe wherein said tank comprises a quantity of a material selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, sodium carbonate, calcium carbonate, sodium sulfite, sodium thiosulfite, ferrous chloride, solid bed absorbents, and mixtures of these materials.

34. (New) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

an intake means for blowing air into the container via a first pipe; and

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a second pipe wherein said tank neutralizes chlorine gas and sulfur dioxide gas.

35. (New) A system for cleaning pressurized containers containing chemicals comprising:

a container having a quantity of chemicals therein wherein the container has a plurality of valves for attaching a plurality of pipes thereto;

an intake means for blowing air into the container via a first pipe; and

a tank comprising a neutralizing material connected to the container via a second pipe,

wherein a third pipe extends from the container to the vacuum pump and further wherein a fourth pipe extends from the vacuum pump to the tank comprising the neutralizing material.

REMARKS

The above-identified amendments are being submitted in response to the Office Action dated March 28, 2002. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 12, 13 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. In addition, claims 1-3, 11-14, 18, 20, 21, 25, 27 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mehta et al. Further, claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kubota et al. Still further, claim 22 was rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mehta et al. in view of Turner. In addition, claims 3 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kubota et al. in view of Schmitt. Also, claims 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mehta et al. In addition, claims 9 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mehta et al. in view of Neubauer et al. Finally, claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mehta et al.

Applicants note with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 15, 16, 23, 24 and 26 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In addition, the Examiner indicated that claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Finally, although the Examiner has not specifically indicated that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any